issues between India and Pakistan must be resolved through bilateral negotiations, as envisaged in the Simla Agreement.

Creation of Rapid Action Force to Combat Terrorism

7763. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2836 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 1993 and state:

(a) what is the number of contingents of Rapid Action Force which have been created by Central Government to combat communal disturbances and places where these are located;

(b) the names of the State Governments which have taken action to create Rapid Action Force; and

(c) what is the percentage of minorities in the Rapid Action Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) There are 10 battalions of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) which have been located in different States at Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Belgaum, Delhi, Aligarh, Trivandrum, Khat Khati, Bhopal and Meerut.

(c) Composite character of Rapid Action Force has been maintained by re-grouping and re-constituting personnel of CRPF in RAF and minorities are adequately represented.

Withdrawal of Security cover from Former Prime Minister

7764. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has since received communication from former prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh soliciting withdrawal of security cover from him and from members of his family if so, the details of the communication;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the wife of the former prime Minister has been insisting for continuance of security cover for herself and the family by SPG; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on such requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A letter dated 19th May, 1994 has been received from Shri V.P. Singh requesting for the withdrawal of the SPG cover provided to him.

(b) As per the SPG (Amendment) Act, 1991, any former Prime Minister or any member of the immediate family of the Prime Minister or a former Prime Minister may decline 'Proximate' security provided to him/her by SPG. No such request for withdrawal of SPG cover has been received from the wife of the former Prime Minister or other family members.

(c) Such requests required consideration of all aspects, including the alternative security needed for the protectee, for taking a decision in the matter.